

Horatio Sharpe to Cherokee Indians, 1756, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

BROTHERS WAHACHEY OF THEEWAY & BRETHEREN OF THE CHEROKEE NATION.

I have received the Message you Sent by Mr. Ross To Advise me of Your Being Come to Fort Frederick.¹ I Rejoice at Your Arrival and I bid You Welcome by this String of White Wampum. Brethren

I have heard of Your Fame & Your good Intentions towards us from Your Brother of Virginia & have for a Long time had a great desire to See You, but it happens now You are Come, I am Unable to Meet You, this I Am Sorry for but I hope You will Excuse me since, I have Sent Mr. Walstenholme & Mr. Ridoubt to Communicate my Sentiments to You, I have Appointed them, because I know that they have a particular Regard for You, & Because I am Confident they will Deliver my words Faithfully, They will in my Name and on Behalf of the People of Maryland make a League with You which I hope will Last as long as the Sun and Moon shall Endure to Confirm it I present You this Belt of Wampum — Brethren

When Mr. Ross was wt. me I gave him Orders to Supply You With Such provision as You should stand in Need of, as a farther Mark of my Friendship towards You, I now Send You a present. Was it in my Power, I would send You a Larger, but as it is Not, I hope You will not Consider the Nature of the Present, so much as The Inclination of him that gives it. Brethren

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Now we have made a League of Friendship and are known To Each Other, I will speak to You more Freely on the purpose for Which You are Come, You say that Your good Brother the Gov'ner of Virginia, has Signified to You that our Father King George Desires you will Join the English, and Declare War against the French and their Indians, who without any Just Cause or Provocation have fallen upon our people and Scattered Their Bones Over ye Country You also tell me that upon our Father's Pleasure being made known To You, You have taken up ye Hatchet against our Enemies, and that You will hold it fast till You have used it against the French & The Indians in their Alliance, I am well pleased that You have already Taken Such a Resolution, I hope You will soon make our Enemies Sensible of it, and that You will prosecute the War Vigorously against Them to make your Hatchets sharpe, and to fasten it in Your hand I Present You with this String of Black Wampum.

You Were told You say when You Came to Fort Frederick that You Were No Longer in Virginia but in another Province, this was true But I must Observe to You that we and the Virginians are Nevertheless one People, The Inhabitants of Carolina Virginia Maryland Pensilvania and of all of the Provinces to the Northward are Brethren, Subjects of the Same great King, and they that are Friends to some of Us, must be friends to All, You are then the Friends of All, Let us become one People and Unite against the French and their Indians our Enemies; Let our Men go out to War with You; Look on them as Your Brethren; Teach them to Fight after Your Manner, and then Neither the French nor their Allies Will be Able to Stand before You; for Your Encouragement and as a Reward to those that fight Bravely, I will give You a Present as Large as that which I have Now Sent You, for Every Two Enemies that You shall take Prisoners, and Deliver up to me, Or that You shall Kill, and Bring me the Scalps of, Or I will give You the Value thereof in Money. Let this Sink Deep Into the Minds of Your Young Men, and Let Them Remember my Promise in the Day of Battle—I have Ordered Captain Beall who Commands the Men at Fort Cumberland to Receive and at all Times treat You and those of Your Nation that Shall Join You As Brethren and as my Best Friends; I have also Notified Your Arrival to Your Brother the Governor of Pensilvania; In this I hope I have done According to Your Desire, and that

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the words which I have Spoken are Agreeable to You; to Confirm the Truth of them and to Convince You that they Flow from my Heart, I give You this Belt

[Indorsed in Washington's handwriting, "A Copy of Govr. Sharpe's Speech to Yc Cherokee Indns 1755.]

¹ This fort was built upon an elevated plateau, about one fourth of a mile from the Potomac. It was constructed of the stone so plentiful in that neighborhood, and its walls were some fifteen feet in height, with bastioned corners. As a place of defense against small arms it was all that could be desired, but was not calculated to resist an artillery attack. The shape of the fort was quadrangular, each of its exterior lines being three hundred and sixty feet in length, and its walls strengthened with earth embankments. The work was done in the most substantial manner, as it was designed for permanent use, and the expense of construction was something more than £6000. Barracks sufficient for the accommodation of three hundred men were erected inside, as well as a substantial magazine. The walls of this fort are still standing, firm and strong, covered with wild vines, and shaded by the foliage of large trees which grow in the inclosure. It is thirteen miles east of Hancock, and may be seen from the railroad cars in passing over the Baltimore & Ohio Road.—LOWDERMILK.